

had no real business experience. Mrs. Jordan put her "hard work" philosophy into action by working 12 hours a day, 7 days a week to make her family's business thrive. In 1956, Mr. and Mrs. Jordan sold their store and started a cattle ranch in Van Vleck, Texas in Matagorda County.

Mrs. Jordan still lives on the ranch, which she has helped operate for the past 49 years. During that time, she has developed as an artist, written several short stories, built her own furniture, become a recognized horticulturist, been active in her church, and touched the lives of numerous people.

Above all else, Orene Jordan is a patriot. She loves America and has never wavered from honesty, personal integrity, respect for the rule of law, and consideration of others. She has made the United States of America, Texas and Matagorda County a better place, and she is not finished yet!

IN MEMORY AND TRIBUTE TO
JOSEPH MONSERRAT

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to bid farewell to friends and mentors, especially those who have worked so hard and given so much to their communities and to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of and tribute to Joseph Monserrat, who passed away this week.

Joe spent his life in public service, both to his community and to his people. He was born in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, and like so many of his generation, moved at a very young age to the United States. He attended public schools and some of New York's most prestigious universities.

Joe served honorably in the Army Air Force, and upon returning, began his long career of public service. He quickly rose to positions of leadership in all his undertakings, making a significant mark as Director of the New York office and Deputy National Director of the Migration Division of the Puerto Rican Department of Labor.

This agency helped assist and smooth the transition for Puerto Ricans resettling in the United States by working to increase employment and business opportunities, increasing the number of major corporations that had employment programs for Puerto Ricans, and other vital services. After eight years in this capacity, because of his hard work and talent, Joe was promoted to National Director of the Division, where he served for another nine years.

Under his leadership, this agency was to become one of the most important national organizations devoted to the cause of helping Puerto Ricans gain a foothold in the United States. He later turned his attention to education, serving on the New York City Board of Education in the early 1970s and later teaching.

In his spare time, Joe served on the boards of many prominent civil rights organizations as well as service with many labor-related organizations. He also spent a great deal of time researching and writing some of the most influential scholarly works on issues affecting His-

panics, Puerto Ricans, the Caribbean and Latin America.

Mr. Speaker, Joe was a tireless leader, brimming with vision, energy and ideals. He was a mentor, a teacher, a friend, and, most importantly, the source of inspiration to countless leaders. The institutions that he touched were forever marked as they reached new heights of service and dedication to worthy causes.

Joe's legacy of service to others and his valuable contributions in all sectors of society will be sorely missed but his legacy lives on.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to Joe's family, colleagues, friends, and all those whom he touched by his life and example.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Monserrat was an uncommon leader on the many different issues that he addressed during his life. He truly showed the way for many Puerto Ricans and Hispanics who followed in his footsteps in New York City and in the nation. Joe could truly be called one of the leading lights of the Hispanic community in the United States, and his commitment to public service should be honored. Fortunately through his leadership, he created a generation of people who will ensure that his vision for the betterment of the Puerto Rican and Hispanic community will not be lost.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to report that even with his passing, his light was not extinguished; instead it will shine stronger than ever among all those he inspired. I ask my colleagues to join me and all who had the privilege of knowing Joe Monserrat in paying tribute to him for serving his community and our nation with uncommon wisdom, generosity and dignity.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419,
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOP-
MENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2006

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Senate version of the Fiscal Year 2006 Energy and Water Appropriations Act included a provision authorizing the Bureau of Reclamation to work in cooperation with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB), the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District (COMCD), and local entities to initiate a Water Supply Augmentation Feasibility Study at Lake Thunderbird near Norman, Oklahoma, and appropriating \$300,000 to the Bureau to initiate this study. Unfortunately, due to current fiscal constraints and the difficult decisions that had to be made in light of these constraints, the conferees were forced to remove this provision in the final conference report.

Mr. Speaker, since its construction in 1965, Lake Thunderbird has served as a reliable source of municipal and industrial water for three communities in my district, including Norman. Preliminary findings by the OWRB and the City of Norman indicate that the City's water demands will exceed its current combined supply from groundwater and Lake Thunderbird within 5 years. In fact, since

1988, Norman has exceeded its proportional allocation 12 separate years. Today, all projections show that the annual allocation afforded Norman will always be exceeded without additional supplies being made available. It is anticipated that the two other communities served by Lake Thunderbird may also need additional water in the future.

Appraisal level studies initiated by the Bureau of Reclamation in Fiscal Year 2003 support the need for additional water supplies to meet the region's future needs. This provision was included in the Senate bill to enable the Bureau of Reclamation, in partnership with the OWRB, the COMCD and its member cities, to initiate a more in-depth feasibility-level study of alternatives to augment the water supplies of the COMCD and its member cities. I look forward to working with the Chairman and the Bureau of Reclamation to identify any unobligated balances within the Bureau's budget that may be released to initiate this study.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOM-
PLISHMENTS OF VICE ADMIRAL
ARTHUR K. CEBROWSKI, UNITED
STATES NAVY, RETIRED

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a visionary leader, a dedicated naval officer, and a true gentleman. Vice Admiral Arthur K. Cebrowski passed away on November 12, 2005 after a lengthy illness and a lifetime of service to this Nation.

Most recently, Vice Admiral Cebrowski served as the Director of the Office of Force Transformation in the U.S. Department of Defense. He was charged with helping transform the Nation's military capabilities from the post-Cold War Industrial Age to a more agile Information Age military force. But his legacy is much greater than just the leader of an office within the Pentagon.

Admiral Cebrowski was, for many years, a driving force for change—an intellectual whose ideas mattered and found their way into the battlespace, the hands of the troops, and the nooks and crannies of the Pentagon. It was Vice Admiral Cebrowski who first introduced the idea of Network Centric Warfare, now a critical term of art in military strategy. It was Vice Admiral Cebrowski whose ideas on defense procurement are changing the types and quantities of ships the Navy buys and how the Department of Defense will buy satellites and services in the future. It was Vice Admiral Cebrowski who identified the need to move technology more quickly into the hands of the war fighter. He was able to push innovative equipment and tools to the troops for operational experimentation during the War on Terrorism.

While intellectual honesty and vision were his trademark, he was also able to express those ideas in simple and understandable terms to others. As the Director of Force Transformation and as President of the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, he was able to share his vision to educate and shape a new generation of leaders. It was a vision based on combat experience in Vietnam and Desert Storm and as a commanding officer of fighter squadrons and ships.

It is not often that a nation is blessed with a great military leader whose powerful ideas make lasting and important contributions to the future. Sometimes it is only through the passage of time and history that their greatness is recognized fully. After some decades, Rear Admiral William A. Moffett eventually became known as the father of naval aviation. Admiral Hyman G. Rickover was recognized as the father of the nuclear Navy. I believe that Vice Admiral Arthur K. Cebrowski will become known as the father of a network centric military, and students of warfare and peace-making will study his ideas and marvel at his contributions for decades to come.

TRIBUTE TO DICK TSCHIDER

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize the remarkable career of one of the all-time leaders in North Dakota healthcare.

Dick Tschider, CEO of the St Alexius Medical Center in Bismarck, North Dakota, for the past 29 years, is retiring from this position. He has devoted his entire career to this outstanding facility, joining it right out of college, 45 years ago.

We all know about the revolution in health care that has occurred during the last four and a half decades. Under Dick Tschider's leadership, St. Alexius has grown dramatically during this period, and is now recognized throughout the region as one of the premier multi-specialty hospitals in the area.

In fact, when ranked in terms of quality of care and patient safety, it is one of the top 100 hospitals in the entire country. Several aspects of St. Alexius care—notably cardiac care—are exceptional, as determined by the competitive analysis of external reviewers.

It has been my personal and professional privilege to know Dick and work closely with him during the last 20 years as I served as North Dakota's Insurance Commissioner and Congressman. Dick was an exceptional football player and he would throw himself into healthcare reimbursement issues with the zeal and intensity he formerly used against gridiron opponents.

During the years of our working relationship, sometimes we agreed, sometimes we didn't, but we maintained a constructive and productive association throughout all of these years. This relationship led to a very significant achievement for North Dakota in the Medicare Modernization Act passed 2 years ago. Dick and other leading members of the medical community convincingly documented the threat discounted Medicare reimbursements held for healthcare—especially in North Dakota. Senator CONRAD, Senator DORGAN and I fought to get an equitable reimbursement adjustment in the Medicare Modernization Act and then worked feverishly to pass the bill which made it by the slimmest margins.

Dick Tschider is an energetic and compassionate man of considerable abilities. Western North Dakota has been fortunate to have someone of his talent and commitment advancing healthcare in our region. I have been fortunate to have him as a friend.

The career of Dick Tschider is an example of leadership and achievement in service to others. I wish him the best in retirement.

AMERICA'S UNSUNG HEROES—THE CRIME VICTIM ADVOCATES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, each and every Member of Congress has crime victim advocates in his or her District. It's likely you hear from them now and again, particularly when critical funding for crime victim services is at stake—like the Administration's proposal to drain the Crime Victim Fund to balance the budget—or you may hear from them when they plead that victims' rights are enforced in accordance with the law. It's also likely that you have an inkling of what these folks do for a living. But I'm pretty sure that you don't know just how much victim advocates are the “unsung heroes” of America today.

Back when I was a prosecutor in the great state of Texas, we didn't have “victim advocates.” There was nobody to provide the victim with support and guidance. The criminal and juvenile justice systems were like a maze to them and, let me tell you, the laboratory mice did a lot better in finding the cheese! Crime victims were lost. Crime victims were forgotten. Crime victims were merely “evidence” used to successfully prosecute criminal cases. Crime victims were “re-victimized” on a daily basis by a system that should be designed to protect them.

At the end of my days as a prosecutor and the beginning of my days as a judge, I started to see these folks called “victim advocates” in court. Back then, their job was to notify victims of the status of their cases and offenders, and explain to them what is often an overwhelming criminal justice process. But if you listened to victims back then, they would tell you that their advocates were so much more. They were a “Rock of Gibraltar” in a rocking sea of confusion. They were there to hold their hands and provide comfort. They were, as one prosecutor from Texas last month noted, “the centerpiece of the courtroom” when it came to helping crime victims and witnesses.

I was privileged earlier this month to deliver a keynote speech at the National Conference of State VOCA Assistance and Crime Victim Compensation Administrators in New Mexico. These are folks that, every single minute of every single day, are on “the front line for victims of crime.” There were over 300 “victim advocates” in the house, and I think it is well worth the time of the U.S. Congress to recognize them.

You should know about the remarkable victim advocates who spent the last year planning this conference, and spent some really quality time learning from each other about how to better help crime victims. For 4 days, state-level victim advocates who oversee funding for vital victim services, and manage state victim compensation programs that help victims recover from the financial losses resulting from crime, came together to teach each other, and learn from each other, and figure out ways to improve assistance to crime victims in ALL our Districts.

Let me begin by saluting John Gillis, the Director of the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime. John knows too well the impact of crime on victims. When he was an LAPD detective almost 30 years ago, his beautiful daughter Louarna was murdered by gang members in a vicious “kill a cop's kid” murder that would move them up the gang hierarchy.

John and his wife Patsy reacted to Louarna's death as so many crime victims and survivors do. They became activists to change how our criminal justice system treats victims, and change how our society views victims. John has spent the last three decades fighting for crime victims' rights, and does so now at the helm of the Office for Victims of Crime, considered the “mother ship” of victim assistance in America. John has become a friend and someone whom I admire and deeply respect. He is our nation's leading “victim advocate” and crime victims everywhere in America are fortunate to have him at the Office for Victims of Crime.

Next, I would like to recognize the Directors of the two national associations that help states manage funding for victim services and victim compensation.

Steve Derene is the Director of the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators. Back in 1984, he helped craft the Victims of Crime Act, which uses fines and fees assessed against convicted Federal offenders to support crime victim services. He has been a true advocate for victims in Wisconsin and, in the past five years, for victims across our nation. He is known as “Stevie Wonder” because he, more than most, has embraced technology as a means to facilitate more effective justice processes and victim assistance; and because it seems he is on call 24/7 to help victims and those who serve them.

Dan Eddy is the Director of the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards. Dan is a quiet, unassuming victim advocate, but the impact of his work is far-reaching. Under his direction, victims of crime in all of our Districts have received millions of dollars—again, not from taxpayers but from convicted offenders—to help them cope with the financial impact of crime. Dan Eddy is truly an “unsung hero” whose efforts are felt in states, communities, neighborhoods and homes across America each and every day.

The Presidents of both Associations—Joe Hood from Georgia and Larry Tackman from New Mexico—also deserve mention. These are two men with a true vision for the field of crime victim services. When they are not managing their state VOCA and compensation programs, they are working hard to promote strength and unity in victim services across our land. With their respective Boards of Directors, they put on a fine conference, and deserve our thanks.

I am guessing ya'll have attended events where everything ran very smoothly. I can assure you this doesn't happen by “accident.” So let me tip my hat to Ms. Gillian Nevers, who had an illustrious career as a Wisconsin victim advocate, and who earlier this month facilitated one of the best victim assistance training conferences ever.

And now I'd like to introduce you to some wonderful victim advocates from New Mexico, and know that my colleagues from New Mexico join me in thanking them. These are the folks who not only put on the conference I attended, but also help victims of their state